

THE SWORD OF THE LORD

and of John R. Rice

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20.

An Independent Religious Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Sin, Modernism, and Denominational Overlordship

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DALLAS, TEXAS, FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 1939

Office: 207 So. Beckley St., Phone 6-6888

God Using Chenault's Sermons

Revival At Fundamentalist Baptist Church Continues Another Week

Rev. P. B. Chenault is in a revival at the Fundamentalist Baptist Church meeting at Sunset and Tyler Streets, Dallas. His searching, tender Bible sermons have been blessing every person who comes. Tonight there must have been more than thirty Christians, many of them in tears, at the altar for new consecration, when Brother Chenault preached on "A Life Made Over." There is a real moving of the Spirit of God, a deep work of Grace going on. No preacher we have ever had in Dallas has had more evidence of the special anointing of God on his ministry. How he is blessing our hearts!

Bring your unsaved loved ones to the revival. Crowds are coming, growing every night. Mrs. Chenault plays the grand piano beautifully and frequently sings for us. Brother Burcaw, sweet-voiced grand opera singer and night club operator, now converted, will sing in certain services. Come! You will feel the deep probing of the Spirit and will be greatly revived, as have so many others. Some have already been saved, many others will be, we trust.

Only one more week remains to hear Brother Chenault, who comes to us all the way from Waterloo, Iowa, to bless our hearts and help us win our lost loved ones.

Hear Brother Chenault's Sermons As Follows

SUNDAY — 10:45 A. M. "Six Reasons Why Every Member of Fundamentalist Baptist Church Sunday School Should Be Saved." This message is especially adapted to a Sunday School as a whole. Pastor Chenault is asking every

class to be present in a body with its teacher if possible.

SUNDAY — 7:30 P. M. "A Question Everyone Must Answer." There are many vital questions which can be avoided but this question must be answered by everyone and must be answered in the life that now is.

MONDAY — 7:30 P. M. "Hell! Its Certainty, Its Character, Its Citizens." This message will deal with the CCC of Hell. Is there a literal Hell? What kind of place is it and who is going there. Each of these questions will be answered from the Word of God.

TUESDAY — 7:30 P. M. "God's Blockades To Hell." Hell was never created for man, but rather for the Devil and his angels. God has placed innumerable blockades on the road to Hell to keep them from spending eternity there. These blockades will be discussed in this message.

WEDNESDAY — 7:30 P. M. "The World's Greatest Love Story." Everyone loves a love story. The greatest love story ever written in either secular or sacred print will be presented in this message.

THURSDAY — 7:30 P. M. "The Great Judgment." There are five distinct judgments recorded in the Word of God. In this message Pastor Chenault will deal with the final and great white throne judgment.

FRIDAY — 7:30 P. M. "Today and Tomorrow." This will be Bro. Chenault's last message with us, before leaving to open a campaign at Kewanee, Illinois, on Sunday, April 2nd. We urge every person who has heard him at any service in Dallas to be present for this final message and to give him a great farewell.

Special Sub. Offer Closing - Hurry!

You can still send trial subscriptions to *The Sword of the Lord* to your neighbors, loved ones and friends at 25 cents for four months. But at midnight, April first, the special offer closes. This will be the last paper most of you will get before the offer is withdrawn. Get your list of subscriptions in the mail by midnight, April first (Saturday night).

How little it costs to send the paper to others for a four-months trial. Will you do your part and so help to get out the gospel to others? Perhaps somebody subscribed for you. Will you do as much for others?

Unsaved people usually read the paper gladly. Send to someone you love and then pray that God will use it to convict and save.

Remember to write plainly, give full address, and send 25 cents for each trial subscription, either new or renewal.

\$1.00 sends the paper to four.
\$2.50 sends it to ten families.
\$5.00 pays for twenty homes to be blessed for four months.
\$10.00 sends forty trial subscriptions.

\$25.00 sends one hundred. We pray someone may pay for one hundred. If you do not know to whom to send it, let us send the paper to some preachers.

Now is the time for those who feel that this is God's work to do

your best and help us get the messages, plain, soul winning gospel messages, to those who need them, saints and sinners. Do it before midnight, April first.

"Our young people's group are desirous of going out to win souls for Christ and so far have had one meeting, with several others lined up for the future. The Lord blessed us at this first effort and one soul indicated a desire to surrender to Him. We want to help her along so we are using the Lord's money to send her a year's subscription to your paper. If the Lord sees fit to bless us further in soul winning, we would like to continue sending the paper to others."

E. D. W.

Elm Creek, Nebraska.

"Enclosed find \$4.00 for a six-year subscription to *The Sword of the Lord* at the rate of three years for \$2.00. I would like the complete file of this magazine from the beginning. I notice that it is now in its fifth year (volume)."

Rev. W. M. F.

Chicago, Illinois.

HEAR BRO. P. B. CHENAULT

— RADIO WRR —

Dallas, 7:30 a.m., Sunday

The Steps Which Led to Peter's Sin

By Rev. P. B. Chenault, Pastor, Walnut Street Church, Waterloo, Iowa. (Stenographically reported as preached March 21st, 1939, in Dallas Revival, Sunset and Tyler Streets, Fundamentalist Baptist Church of Oak Cliff)

Is it possible for a saved person, one who is enjoying unbroken fellowship and communion with God, to turn aside from such a life and fall into the depths of sin, all at once? This question came to my mind some time ago as I was reading the account of Peter's denial of Christ. How could it be possible for Peter, one of the apostles who had had the glorious privilege of walking, and talking, and sleeping and eating with the Lord Jesus Christ for three and a half years, to come to the place where he cursed and swore and denied that he ever knew Him? That question was raised, and I began to search the Scriptures for an answer. It was soon apparent that in Peter's case, he did not step from the place of fellowship and sweet communion with his Lord to the place of denial all at once.

FREE!

New 28-Page Booklet, "There Is No Difference, For All Have Sinned."

We are having delivered this week a brand new book by Editor John R. Rice. It is, *There Is No Difference For All Have Sinned*.

There are 28 pages of Bible teaching showing that there is no difference between the moral man and the criminal, the virtuous wife or mother and the harlot, between the best lodge member or church member, and the hardest hearted rebel against God — in the fact of sin. The Pharisee in the temple said, "God, I thank thee that I am not as other men are, even as this publican." But the Lord says, "There Is No Difference."

This strong Bible sermon on sin should do great good. God has blessed it as preached in evangelistic meetings in many places. It should bring real conviction to sinners and should clear up the minds of many Christians on this all-important subject. We need more preaching on sin and more conscience about sin, more confessing and forsaking of sins.

In order to get out the gospel everywhere possible, the editor is offering free this booklet for a limited time to everybody that will write for it. I wish ten thousand people would write and get this sermon. I would trust the dear Lord to provide the means some way to print it and pay postage.

There will be a nice pink cover. The sermon closes with a decision blank for those who accept Christ on reading it. We pray that God will use it to bless many.

Write for it today! Simply say, "Please send me your new book, *There Is No Difference, For All Have Sinned*." It will be sent without any obligation, free and post-paid to everyone who writes. Please do not send long lists of names for us to send it to others, who as far as we know, may not want it. We will send it, however, to all who write for themselves.

It is understood that we send these free in the Lord's name, as He provides money for printing, postage and mailing. Any who wish to have part may do so.

Write to John R. Rice, 207 South Beckley, Dallas, Texas.

Rather it came as a result of a series of steps. And based upon the experience of Peter, I believe that in the life of every individual child of God who wanders from the path of obedience into the depths of sin, it is the result of having first of all taken several steps away from the Lord.

I want you to follow me in these steps tonight. I want us to be as personal as we were last night, and as each step is mentioned, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you whether or not you are guilty of having taken that step away from God.

In the gospel of Matthew, chapter twenty-six, verse forty-one, are these words spoken by the Lord Jesus Christ to Peter and the rest of the apostles:

"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

You are familiar with the context here. Jesus had met with His disciples yonder in the upper room and observed the Passover. He had instituted what we call the Lord's Supper; had gone with His disciples into the Garden of Gethsemane and upon entering the Garden had left the disciples, save Peter, James and John. Then He took these three a little further with Him and said to them, "Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder." He had just offered that first prayer, "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt." He returned and found the disciples asleep. I used to ask myself how the disciples could have fallen asleep in such a crisis as

that. But if you read the activities of these men the preceding week you will see that they had been busy night and day until they were worn and weary and completely exhausted. They were interested, but the minute they sat down and relaxed, they dropped asleep. And Jesus commands them now, "Watch and pray." Peter's first step toward the denying of the Lord of glory was in the fact that he failed to watch and to pray. Watch!

Would you let me give a little as-croscopic on that word W-A-T-C-H?

Watch your words. Peter didn't do that, just a little later on in the story. Oh, this little instrument, the tongue. God tells us it is the least of all our members, and yet how powerful! He would have you and me as His followers to be ever so careful about what we say.

I read once of a woman who was given to gossiping. I don't know why they always put that on the woman. You come down to the barber shop with me tomorrow morning. I am of the opinion that the worst gossipers in the world are the he-gossipers. But this happened to be a woman. She passed a piece of gossip around the town and it caused much disturbance and hindered the gospel of Christ. Her pastor sent for her and called her in and counselled with her. She was very penitent. The pastor asked, "What are you going to do about it?"

"I will do anything, Pastor, to make this thing right," she said.

"Very well. Are you sure you will do anything?"

"Yes, I will do anything."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

God Blessing Wide Use of Tract "What Must I Do To Be Saved"

3 Conversions Reported In One Day From Missouri, Minnesota, Alaska

In Albert Lea, Minnesota, a woman wrote to the Christian Business Men's Committee in Chicago after hearing editor John R. Rice on the radio and asked for my booklet, *What Must I Do To Be Saved?; Hell, What the Bible Says About It; and Can A Saved Person Ever Be Lost?*; thousands of which were given away free during the editor's Chicago ministry with the Christian Business Men's Committee in the Grand Opera house and over radio WJJD. This dear woman was saved reading these booklets. Monday, March 20th, her letter came. Here is part of it:

"Dear Brother in Christ:

"Thank you very much for the booklets, they did me so much good, and I have passed them on to a neighbor also. Oh, I am so glad and thank my God for the Saviour Jesus and His all-redeeming blood, and I am saved, praise God! And I, too, have passed from death to everlasting life in Christ Jesus. Oh, I could shout from the house tops for Jesus, I am so happy.

"Brother Rice, I truly wish you would be able to come this very summer and hold meetings here in the city of Albert Lea, Minnesota. I would like

very much to be baptized again here in Fountain Lake, by you, for I have been saved from reading your booklets, so I feel you really should be the one to baptize me; however, for one soul you could not afford, I suppose, to come so far; however, there probably would be more."

The same day, last Monday, there came a letter also from Ashton, Missouri (dated March 17th). The letter said:

"Dear Brother Rice:

"Realizing that I am a sinner and believing that Christ died for my sins, I here and now trust Him to be my personal Saviour, depending on Him to forgive all my sins, change my heart and give me everlasting life as He promised to do. I am glad to confess Him as my Saviour.

"Please pray for me that I may be entirely yielded to Him and filled with His Spirit. Thank you."

A part the lady quoted from the decision slip on page sixteen of *What Must I Do To Be Saved?* She also subscribed for *The Sword of the Lord* and ordered a number of booklets.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

God Blesses Wide Use of Tract, "What Must I Do To Be Saved?"

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Praise the Lord for another soul saved! Let the readers pray, as requested, that she may be yielded to God fully and be filled with His Spirit for service.

A Man Saved In Kenai, Alaska

A third letter came last Monday also telling of a soul saved. Whether this dear man had heard of the booklet and wrote for them or whether someone else sent it to him, I do not know. However, he evidently read the message on *What Must I Do To Be Saved?* through with the greatest concern and marked certain passages with pen. On the back of the decision slip was part of the sermon, of course. In this sermon I said, "Do you hate Jesus Christ?" He wrote beside it in ink, "No." The sermon continued: "Will you hold on to your sin and go to Hell for your stubbornness?" He wrote in ink on the page, "No." The sermon said, "Nothing in the world could show your wickedness like postponing this matter." And he wrote there on the page beside it in ink, "Correct!" Then the sermon said, "You can be saved right now this minute." And he wrote in ink an emphatic "Yes." Then after some sentences the question was asked in the sermon, "Will you trust Jesus Christ today and be saved?" And he wrote in ink, "Yes." Then in the sermon I quoted Proverbs 27:1: "Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth." And this reader evidently greatly concerned wrote with his pen beside the Scripture, "Wisdom." So when he came to the last page and found the decision slip he signed it Paul J. Boyd, Kenai, Alaska. Thank God for the evidences for a genuine repentance and a sincere turning to Christ for salvation. And we know that Christ did not turn him down.

That decision slip was signed March 1st and got here March 20th. A good long way it is up in Alaska, but the mail in nineteen or twenty days brought the glad news that because of bread cast on the waters and a tract sent away, by someone who loved it, this man has found Christ as his Saviour!

The gospel is still the power of God to salvation to everyone that believeth whether it be in Albert Lea, Minnesota, or Ashton, Missouri, or Kenai, Alaska.

How many times our hearts have been made happy by such reports as these. As far as we can we are trying to get out the gospel to every creature just as the Saviour commanded in the great commission. This booklet is only one of many, but how God has blessed it!

The Cicero Bible Church Colportage Society ordered the other

The Steps Which Led to Peter's Sin

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Then go yonder to neighbor so and so who has a great quantity of black fowls. I want you to secure from her an old black hen. Pick all the feathers off her dry, and put them in a basket and bring them to me."

She was gone some little while and returned with a great big basket just piled up with feathers. It was a windy day. She said, "Here I am, Pastor. What is next?"

"I want you to go down to Third and Main Streets and take as large a handful of those feathers as you can and throw them as high as you can in the air. Then go on down to Second and Main and do the same thing, and then to First and Main," and he mentioned all the strategic points in that little town. "Then come back."

She came back and said, "Pastor, I have done what you told me to do. What now?"

"Now, Sister, I want you to go back down town and gather up all those feathers and bring them to me."

Do you get the point? Say, listen, there is many a soul in Dallas tonight on his way to hell because some Christian was not careful in watching his words. Watch your words. Once they are spoken, you can never recall them.

W-A — A-C-T-I-O-N-S. Watch your Actions! The great majority of the citizens in Dallas are not reading this old Book. But you are living epistles, know and read of all men. For every person in Dallas reading his or her Bible, there are ten reading the lives of Christians. How do you act where you work? How do you act in social life? How do you act as to your choice of entertainment and amusements? Watch your actions.

W-A-T — T-H-O-U-G-H-T-S. Watch your Thoughts! For as a man thinketh in his heart, so he is. It is not that which goeth into the mouth that defileth a man, said Jesus, but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man. And it comes out only after you have thought of it.

"You tell me," said someone, "what a man thinks of nine-tenths of his time, and I will tell you what that man is."

These are busy days. Isn't this a rushing old world? The world in which I now live isn't the world at all in which I lived twenty-five years ago with my dad on the farm. We lived then, now we exist. We followed God's order. We slept at night and we worked in the day. Now we go night and day. I don't think God would have divided the day and night into darkness and light if He hadn't expected us to take the darkness part of it and rest. But even in this life of activities and rushing when you have time to meditate and think, what do you think about? And how much of your thought-life is occupied with God and with the Lord

Jesus Christ and all He has done for you?

W-A-T-C — C-H-U-M-S or Companions. Watch your Chums! Watch your Companions. I will have more to say about this in the message a little later. But, oh, the danger of bad companionships! That story of John Hauff which ended in the electric chair came about largely because he failed to watch his companions.

A short time ago I became sponsor for a young chap that had just been released from the state penitentiary over in Illinois, and each month the parole officer sends a report which he must fill out and I must sign, telling of his conduct. And one of the most important requirements so far as the parole board is concerned is that he be careful about his chums. Our jails and penitentiaries and houses of correction are filled tonight with

the youth of America because they haven't been careful in selecting the right companions.

W-A-T-C-H—H-E-A-R-T. Watch your Heart. And briefly all that is necessary to say here is this: You must open the door of your heart—for remember that Jesus Christ stands at the door and knocks. In the third chapter of Revelation and the twentieth verse He said:

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock. if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

We of course know that that has to do particularly with the church, and we believe this reference is concerning the churches in this dispensation. Oh, how pitiful that all over America tonight there are thousands of churches before whose doors the Lord Jesus Christ stands and knocks for an entrance to the institution and organization that bears His name, but they have no room for Him. But it is also true

that He knocks at the door of the individual's heart. And if you open the door of your heart and let the Lord Jesus Christ come in and turn over all the rooms of your heart to Him, He will take care of it.

Peter failed to watch. And then he failed to pray. I am certain that if Peter, from the time that Jesus spoke to him, had spent more time on his face before God, supplicating God for wisdom and for courage in these crucial moments just ahead, he never would have slipped and denied the Lord Jesus Christ with curses and with oaths.

How about it in your life tonight, my friend? Have you taken the first step away from God? Have you already been guilty of the first step that will some day lead you into greater sin? Have you failed to watch your words and actions and thoughts and your companions and have you been careless about your heart? Have you failed to pray? The Bible tells us to pray without ceasing.

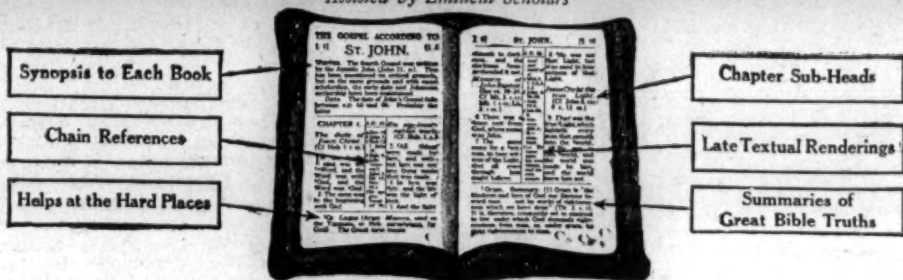
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14 And the Word was
flesh, and dwelt among us, (

beheld his glory, the glory a

Editor John R. Rice says: "The Scofield Reference Bible is the greatest reference Bible in the world." Notice the following.

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THE SWORD BOOK ROOM

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THE SWORD OF THE LORD and of John R. Rice

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JOHN R. RICE, EDITOR, Pastor of Fundamental Baptist Church

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day, 1,000 for distribution by the Fisherman's Club. They will use, they say, about 1,000 a month. Today orders came for 600 copies of *What Must I Do To Be Saved?* Again and again recently the printer has been called upon and now for weeks he has not been able to keep up with our requests for more copies of *What Must I Do To Be Saved?*

Do you want to help to get out this gospel message on the plan of salvation which with many Scriptures, and clear, simple illustrations, makes clear God's way to be saved, and warns sinners of the danger and wickedness of delay? If so, then order today some copies of *What Must I Do To Be Saved?* We ask that in quantities you pay for them at one cent each, \$1.00 a hundred, or \$9.00 per thousand. But we will give away one copy or a few copies free, postpaid, to anybody who asks for them. Help us get this gospel message out.

I am sorry that we cannot supply them in large quantities to many who would like to distribute them. Let us pray that God will give us the money for a more widespread distribution. In the meantime, write and get a copy for any of your loved ones who are unsaved, absolutely free, or order a quantity for distribution at this low price which is approximate cost.

The Steps Which Led to Peter's Sin

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

We are in the midst of a revival and are asking God to revive our hearts and save souls. I wonder if we were absolutely honest with God and with ourselves and honest with the pastor and the evangelist, could we say, "Well, the first thing I thought of this morning when I awoke was my God, my Saviour, and the revival, and before I left my room to attend to the affairs of this life, I talked to the Lord?" How about it, have you failed to watch and pray?

And following close on the first step, we see Peter taking a second. Matthew 26:58 says:

"But Peter followed him afar off."

The soldiers had come out as though to take Public Enemy No. One, and Judas had betrayed Him with a kiss as Jesus had prophesied. Christ had also said that every single one of His followers would flee and leave Him alone. This prophecy, too, was fulfilled. Yonder in the distance is Peter. Jesus is being led off now, handcuffed, with soldiers on either side and all around about Him, down to the Judgment Hall. Peter is away back in the rear. He comes walking on in the steps of Jesus. He is following Jesus, he is going the same direction Jesus is going. He is going to the same place Jesus is going. You couldn't say Peter wasn't following his Lord, but the record says he followed Jesus afar off.

Now why was Peter following Jesus afar off? There is only one answer, Peter didn't want to be recognized that night as one of the followers of the lowly Nazarene. Peter realized it would mean something if he was identified as a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, so he kept his distance.

Is there someone here tonight, and you call yourself a follower of Jesus Christ, you call yourself a Christian. In days gone by you walked down the aisle and made an open confession of faith in Christ. You followed your Lord in baptism. You had your name inscribed on somebody's church record, and for these many years you have called yourself a Christian. Yes, but the question I am asking you tonight is, "Are you, too, following the Lord Jesus Christ afar off?" If you are, your purpose is the same as that of Peter. You don't really want to be recognized as one of His followers when you are among His enemies. Are you like the young man who was saved, and went back to his work. A few

weeks later, his pastor said to him, "Son, how are you coming along down there at the shop?"

"Just fine. I don't think anybody has suspected me yet as being a Christian."

"Doesn't the young man who works next to you know you are a Christian?"

"I don't think so."

"You go get him," said the pastor, "and both of you get down here on your knees. What you need to do is to be saved!"

He was following the Lord afar off.

Say, there are church members in Dallas by the thousand that nobody would ever know they were identified with the Lord Jesus Christ unless they told them so. Fred Hileman is chairman of the Board of Deacons in my church. He travels for John Deere Tractor Company. He is foreman of the service department. Recently he returned from a great sales meeting of the district all around Indianapolis, Indiana. I heard him tell this at a Fisherman's Club meeting just recently. He said while there he heard a man give a lecture on salesmanship. The man while on the platform mentioned the fact that he was a Christian. But Mr. Hileman said there was nothing else anywhere in the lecture that would cause one to suspect him of being a Christian, for in practically every sentence he used an oath. He said, "That stirred me up so that the rest of the week I observed the big business men, dealers and head mechanics from all over that area, and I was impressed with the fact that no one would ever suspect them of being Christians if they did not make some definite reference to it in their statements." Following the Lord Jesus Christ? Yes, but following so far off that the enemies of the gospel of Jesus Christ would never suspect you of being one of His! And then we wonder why we can't get unsaved people into the house of God for a revival!

Then we read in the same verse, Matthew 26:58,

"But Peter followed him afar off into the high priest's palace, and went in, and sat with the servants, to see the end."

He sat with the servants now. Do you know that every single individual in that circle that night aside from Peter was a definite enemy of the Lord Jesus Christ? Every one was an enemy of Christ save Peter, and there he sat! He

chose the wrong kind of companions and friends.

Some of my young people say to me, "Pastor, do you see any harm in roller skating?" One of the fads up our way is the roller skating rink. The question isn't that roller skating itself is harmful, but you can't go on a public roller skating rink or any other place where a great majority of those present are the enemies of the Lord Jesus Christ and His cause and expect to keep your garments white.

Every once in a while in my church I discover that some young person has been taken up with a group of other individuals outside of my church and who are not Christians, and I talk to that individual, and he tries to tell the pastor, "I am going to use my influence." It is one thing when God puts you in a place where everyone is unsaved, but it is quite another thing when you put yourself there. If you are in a place of employment where every single employee aside from yourself is unconverted and you the only saved one there, you can thank God He saw fit to put you there. It will be hard, don't forget that, but if God opened the door of employment and put you there, He wants your light to shine, and He wants you to witness a good confession before those unsaved people. But it is quite another thing when you choose to have fellowship with those whom you know are not the friends of Christ. That is just another step to some greater sin.

Now we are going to the gospel according to Mark. In the fourteenth chapter, verse fifty-four, Mark adds a little word to what Matthew has already said:

"And Peter followed him afar off, even into the palace of the high priest: and he sat with the servants, and warmed himself at the fire."

Can you see Peter sitting out there with all of those servants, the enemies of the Lord Jesus Christ, warming himself? He was warming at the devil's fireside.

Now when I was a young chap, growing up, my mother used to tell me if I got too close to the fire I would get scorched and maybe burned.

And just as certain as that, I tell you if you are a child of God and you run around with the people of this world and warm at the devil's fire-side, you are going to get burned. Yes, you will.

The other day I heard a certain pastor say that he had had to change choir practice night from Wednesday to some other night because of bank-night at the theatres. I would like to see myself changing my choir-practice night for bank night! Do you have bank nights down here? You would be surprised how many church people go to bank night. First of all, a child of God has no business in the enemy's camp, in such a filthy, low place that is wrecking and ruining more of our young people than any other agency or institution in America. You know it is true. As long as God gives me breath, I am going on preaching against the movies.

The great percentage of our boys and girls back of grim prison walls are there because of the present-day motion pictures. How can a child of God go down there and take the money God has given you—all you have comes from Him—and aid and abet in crime?

What can we say about the way our girls are going wrong? Statistics show that the motion picture and the dance are having more to do with it than anything else. You can go to Chicago where we have large homes for fallen girls and ask them, and nine out of ten will tell you that it was through either the dance or the motion picture shows that they were brought to that place, and yet Christian people go and put their money into such shows and sit there and apparently enjoy them. You go back again and again. Warming at the devil's fire-side.

There are Christian people by the thousands here in this city who would argue with their preacher, "That is just the Baptist view-point. I can't see anything wrong in having a few stacks of cards about my house and having a little sociable game once in a while." Notwithstanding the fact that ninety per cent of the gamblers in our penitentiaries went there because they learned to play

in a sociable game at home. If you go on leading your boys and girls to Hell, you must stand before Jesus Christ at the grand judgment seat and give an account. Yes, you will. That is what God's word says. "We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ." Peter warmed at the devil's fireside. Have you?

And then for the next step we come down to verse sixty-six; Mark 14:66-72, and there is the actual denial of Peter with cursings and with oaths. He declares that he never, never knew this man. Oh, how terrible! Has there been any time in your life when you have denied the Lord and when you followed Him afar off? You got in the wrong gang who didn't have any love or respect for Jesus Christ, and you went with them to the places they go and thereby warmed at the devil's fire? You came to the place where you actually found yourself denying Jesus. There are a lot of ways of denying Christ other than with cursing and with oaths. Have you ever denied the Lord Jesus Christ?

I want you to go just a little further. I want to go to John, chapter twenty-one and verse three. There are some other interesting steps here. In the third verse, these words—this is after Peter denied the Lord, after Jesus had gone to Calvary and died for our sins, and after His burial. In the third verse we read:

"Simon Peter saith unto them," (unto the apostles), "I go a fishing."

In my Bible I have put a circle around that "I." And in the next sentence we read:

"They say unto him" (that is, the disciples said unto him), "We also go with thee."

And I circled that "we." You have an influence. If you are a backslider tonight, you are taking someone else with you. If you are living a victorious life tonight, you are taking somebody with you. Everybody has influence. Someone is looking at you.

You have heard the story told about the dad who felt it necessary to stop in and get a little drink every morning on the way to work. He wasn't a drunkard. He didn't drink heavily. He argued many a time that there was no harm in it. But this particular morning a good snow had fallen some five or six inches deep and the saloon was just around the corner from his house. He picked up his lunch pail and put it under his arm and started out. He turned the corner, and just as he got his hand on the knob of the door of the saloon, he heard a peculiar noise, and looking back saw there was his little boy

following in his footsteps. He was stepping as far as he could. The father said,

"Son, what on earth are you doing?"

"Oh, Daddy, I see a big man now. I am walking right in your tracks." And the Holy Spirit of God took that little statement from those precious, innocent lips and pierced the heart of that dad.

"My boy is walking right in my steps, and my steps are leading him to a saloon."

Listen, you know there isn't a man in all the world quite as big and important as you are to that little fellow of yours. And, mother, there isn't a woman in all the world quite so important and wonderful as you are to that little girl of yours. She is walking in your steps. Where do your steps lead?

"I am going fishing." What Peter really said was, "I am going back to the same old things, the same old business, the same old work I did before I met Jesus." That is what he said. "I am going fishing." Is somebody here tonight who twenty-five or thirty years ago, or maybe just ten or five years ago, had a glorious experience of salvation? Maybe it was in the midst of a revival meeting such as this that the Spirit of God convicted you of your sin and you turned your eyes upon Calvary and called upon Jesus Christ to forgive you your sins, and the burdens rolled off and you had such a glorious time in the Lord for a little time until you took the first step

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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The Steps Which Led to Peter's Sin

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

away from God, and then another one and then another and now you say, "I don't know whether I am saved or not. I am not living the life I ought to live." Next to a sinner under conviction, the most miserable person in the world is a backslidden Christian. You can't be happy when you go to church, for if you come to church and you

are a backslider, you can't enjoy the things of the Lord. And if you go to the places of the world, you are miserable there.

Peter said, "I go a fishing," and the disciples said, "We also go with thee."

Look at your heart tonight. You are not only guilty of turning your back upon the Lord, but guilty of doing the very same things as be-

fore you confessed Jesus Christ as your Lord, and the sad part of it is the fact that you are taking somebody else along that same road.

"They went forth, and that night they caught nothing. It is barren out in the devil's territory. You Christians never have caught anything worthwhile in the motion picture show, have you? I can imagine some Christian of Dallas going into the Texas Theater and bowing his head and saying, 'Now, Lord, it is certainly good that you have made it possible for me to be here tonight. I thank you, too, because you made it possible for me to save a quarter from my hard-earned money that I might pay for the ticket. Bless the actresses tonight and bless the operators who run the machines and prepare my heart and mind that I may get a real blessing here tonight and be a blessing to my home and friends. Amen.'"

You say that is absurd. Of course it is, but God says, "Whatsoever you do, whether you eat or drink, whatever you do, do it to the glory of God." Any place you can't go and talk to God about it and ask Him to bless you and make you a blessing to those you meet, there you had better not go. You never in your life asked God for some good to come out of a card party. In the devil's territory there is waste and barrenness and no fruit. That night they caught nothing.

Then in the fifth verse Jesus said unto them as He came down the next morning, "Children, have ye any meat?" And they answered Him, "No." No meat.

In this same chapter, beginning with verse fifteen, you will recall how Jesus dealt with Peter after He had served them breakfast. Jesus prepared that meal. How lovely of Him. Notwithstanding what Peter had done, Jesus said, "Peter, do you love me? Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these?" Now I know that after the cock crew Peter went out and wept bitterly, but I don't think that was true repentance. He was sorry. But here we read that Peter was grieved. Peter was grieved, I believe, because he saw the connection between his three denials and these three confessions. He couldn't help associating them with the three denials. Now Jesus said to him, "Follow thou me." And I believe that in those experiences around that breakfast table Peter came back into fellowship with His Lord and rededicated his life and he was obedient to the Lord.

And we have one more step. We turn now to the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, verse fourteen:

"But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, hearken to my words."

And on through that chapter we read that marvelous sermon, though simple. And when we come down to the close of his message in verse forty-one,

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."

Where do you stand tonight, my friend? Peter followed his Lord afar off. He sat with the enemies of Christ. He warmed himself at the devil's fireside. Then he openly and definitely denied the Lord and turned his back upon the Saviour and upon his call for the ministry. He went back into the same old things, fishing, mending nets, and he took ten other men with him. But Jesus appeared to him again and Peter now comes openly and confesses and is grieved because of his backsliding. He comes back into a fellowship such as he had never had before, he is filled with the Holy Spirit and goes out and preaches one sermon and three thousand souls are saved.

Listen to me, backslider, if you are here, whether you have taken one step or several of them, the Lord Jesus Christ wants you to come back. You can tonight in this service. Even as Jesus reappeared to Peter, He is as ready and willing to forgive you of all your backsliding and fill you with the Holy Spirit and give you a new testimony and new power and give you souls as He was Peter. Are you willing tonight to come back?

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